

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:350

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2007

AVAILABILITY OF FRUITS FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

Chakraborty Shri Ajay;Prasad Shri Hari Kewal

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to establish the total quantity of fruits available for food processing industries in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a huge quantity of fruits is wasted every year due to non-existence of proper storage facility in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHA)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the table of House.

Statement referred to in reply to (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 350 for 26.04.2007

The production of fruits in the country (2004 -2005) was 492.94 lakh tonnes. State wise annual data base for horticulture produce is maintained by National Horticulture Board under Ministry of Agriculture. However, no specific survey to establish the total quantity of fruits available for food processing industries has been conducted, the level of processing is estimated at 2.2% for fruits & vegetables. According to the Vision 2015 report prepared by Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of Agricultural food items,(including fruits) is estimated to be about Rs. 58000 Crore, occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to lack of adequate post harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc. Wastage of fruits and vegetables is estimated to be of the order of 22% due to such inadequate facilities.

The Government, through its schemes for financial assistance and other promotional measures, facilitates creation of food related infrastructure aimed at reducing wastages, enhancing value addition and increasing shelf life. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, through its plan schemes during X Plan, has been promoting development of infrastructure for food processing industries including for cold storage, special type of cold storages with controlled/modified atmosphere facility and cold storages as integral part of processing units or part of processing units or part of common facilities in food park. During the X Plan, the Ministry has implemented a scheme for cold chain whereunder assistance upto 25% of the cost of Plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs was admissible to all implementing agencies. During the XI Plan, the Ministry is working on launching a revamped comprehensive Cold Chain infrastructure scheme for creating integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels - farm level primary processing centre- cum-cold chain, collection/aggregation centers and Strategic Distribution Centres.

In addition, a new scheme of Mega Food Park during XI Plan is presently under discussion with the Planning Commission to provide a mechanism to bring farmers, processors and retailers together and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimize wastages and improve farmer's income. The Mega Food Park is envisaged to provide state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The initiatives being undertaken by the Ministry are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of post harvest / cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages